

2 February 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Ben Evans  
Executive Secretary

FROM : Roberta Knapp  
Acting, Chief, History Staff

SUBJECT : Materials Relating to OSS

1. The mandate of the CIA History Staff covers the period from 1947--the establishment of the Agency--to the present. OSS and other World War II activities are covered incidentally in some of the History Staff's classified, closely held publications that deal with units having continuity from the war period. Examples include the Foreign Broadcast Information Service, map information, printing, and security elements, and certain West European stations. A two-volume classified study titled "Donovan and the CIA" was published without the imprimatur of the History Staff by the Intelligence Institute of the Office of Training. The History Staff has no work in progress on the OSS.

2. The Agency holds 6,500 cubic feet of OSS records, of which approximately half were determined by the Archivist of the National Archives and Records Center in 1978 to be of permanent value. A classification review team of about 15 former intelligence officers--some with service going back to OSS--has been at work since January 1979 to review the classification of these permanent records for eventual accessioning to NARS. As of the end of 1980, this team had reviewed 1,600 cubic feet of the permanent OSS records, declassifying about 93 percent. The main reasons for withholding the 7 percent were to protect sources, foreign government information, and foreign liaison relationships. There remain approximately 1,500-1,700 cubic feet to be reviewed, with the exact amount to be determined by decisions from NARS as to whether certain OSS records are in fact of permanent value. The target date for completion of the classification review is summer 1982.

3. Following classification review, the Information Management Staff of the DO--the custodian of the OSS files--arranges, in coordination with the Records Management Division of the Office of Information Services, DA, for accessioning to NARS. The first 198 cubic feet of OSS records was transferred to NARS in January 1980. Provisions in the accessioning agreement relating to restrictions on the release of the names of US persons affiliated with the OSS are still under discussion. CIA has stated its willingness to negotiate suitable alternatives to the specific restrictions cited in the agreement. After accessioning, NARS must process the material for presentation and release to the public.

Page 2  
Memo for Ben Evans  
2 February 1981

4. In 1945 the Research and Analysis component of OSS, together with its records, was merged into the Department of State. The Research and Analysis records--mostly reports--were turned over to NARS and reviewed for declassification by the CIA review team beginning in 1972. Over 90 percent of these materials have been declassified. They are available on microfilm from University Publications.

5. The CIA Library's Historical Intelligence Collection includes both the classified and the sanitized versions of the War Report--Office of Strategic Services prepared in 1947 and published in 1949 by the History Project of the War Department. It also has various OSS training manuals and occasional publications, as well as a large collection of unclassified memoirs and other materials relating to the history of the OSS.

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Roberta Knapp  
Acting Chief,  
CIA History Staff  
203 Key Bldg.

30 Jan 1981

SUBJECT: OSS Records - Status Report

There are approximately 6,500 cu ft of OSS records. In 1978 these records were surveyed by Col. <sup>Raymond</sup> ~~XXXX~~ Tagge, Archivist of the National Archives and Records Service (NARS) who determined that approximately 3,308 cu ft were of permanent records value. To prepare these permanent records for eventual accessioning to NARS we began, in January 1979, to review them for possible declassification. This classification review has been done by a team of annuitants numbering between 13 and 15 former officers with long intelligence experience in CIA and some even going back to service in the OSS. As of the end of 1980, this OSS Review Team had reviewed 1,595 cu ft of the permanent OSS records. Ninety-three percent of the material reviewed has been declassified. The most prominent reasons for withholding seven percent of the documents have been to protect sources, foreign government information and foreign liaison relationships. There remains approximately 1,500 - 1,700 cu ft to be reviewed with the exact amount to be determined by some pending final decisions from NARS whether certain OSS records are in fact of permanent value. The classification review is expected to be completed by the ~~Summer~~ Summer of 1982.

Following classification review, the Information Management Staff of the DO, which has formal custody of the OSS files, further processes the records and arranges, in coordination with the Records Management Division of the Office of Information Services, DA, for accessioning to NARS. In January 1980 the first group of 198 cu ft of OSS records was accessioned to NARS. ~~On restriction on~~

~~release of the names of U.S. persons affiliated with the OSS~~

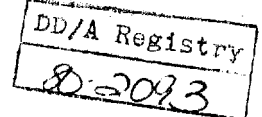
Following the signing of the accessioning agreement with NARS they did bring up for discussion a restriction on the release of the names of U.S. persons affiliated with the OSS. This discussion continues and the CIA has ~~made~~ stated its willingness to negotiate suitable alternatives to our specific restrictions. It remains for NARS to process the material in preparation for presentation and release to the public.

the availability

Regarding official historical material concerning the OSS there is the War Report, Office of Strategic Services, prepared by the History Project of the Strategic Services Unit in 1947 and printed by the U.S. Government Printing Office in July 1949 as a TOP SECRET document. This official history, consisting of two large volumes, was reviewed and a sanitized version made available by CIA in February 1976 to those who requested it. In addition,  CIA has compiled a history entitled Donovan and the CIA, a History of the Establishment of the CIA, which was published in house by the CIA in 1975 classified SECRET.

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22 SEP 1980



MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Don I. Wortman  
Deputy Director for Administration

SUBJECT: Restrictions on OSS Records

1. In response to the question recently brought to your attention regarding restrictions on public access to OSS records in the National Archives, the following briefly covers our efforts to declassify and transfer OSS records to the National Archives, and our negotiations concerning the restrictions.

2. The CIA declassification review of OSS records began in December 1972 when two retired Agency officers were engaged under contract to review OSS material that had been accessioned by the National Archives from the Department of State. This material came from the part of OSS that was transferred to the Department when OSS was abolished. The two officers completed this review in 1974 and then commenced a systematic review of the OSS files in CIA's custody. The review team subsequently was enlarged to include a total of 15 retired officers. In 1978 the review of OSS material was incorporated into the Agency program for reviewing all SSU, CIG, and CIA records. This program carries out the provisions of Executive Order 12065 requiring the systematic declassification review of all permanent, classified records over 20 years old.

3. The initial Agency transfer of OSS records to the National Archives was made in December 1979. It consisted of 198 cubic feet of material declassified by the Agency. In this transfer the Agency imposed the following "specific restrictions" on the release of documents to the public:

- a. "Foreign Government Information must be afforded protection and will not be released without the prior approval of the government involved."
- b. "In keeping with the provisions of the Privacy Act information concerning the affiliation of U.S. persons with OSS may not be released without the consent of the person involved."

These restrictions were accepted in writing by the National Archives and Records Service (NARS) as part of the transfer. They are similar to restrictions imposed at times by other agencies. The second restriction also is similar to "general restriction" No. 18, imposed by the Archivist on all records of the type to which the Privacy Act normally would apply (the National Archives is exempt from the access provisions of the Privacy Act).

4. Since the December 1979 transfer, at least one NARS official has voiced concern that NARS, in order to make full use of the OSS records, must abide by restrictions similar to the provisions of the Privacy Act; that is, sensitive information relating to employment and personal activities would have to be cleared with the U.S. person concerned before release to the public. Because of the burden of checking with each person, it would be impractical for NARS to use many of the records.

5. The question of restrictions has been under discussion with NARS for several months. It has been referred within NARS to Mr. Raymond Tagge, liaison officer to the Agency. Mr. Tagge has been seeking clarification as to how any differences between our specific restriction and NARS general restriction No. 18 may cause undue burden on NARS. We have told Mr. Tagge the Agency will be happy to negotiate suitable alternatives to our specific restrictions should NARS so desire.

DON WORTMAN

Don I. Wortman

STAT

DDA/OIS/RMD/RSI  
(18 September 1980)

DDO/IMS):br

Distribution:

Original-Addressee

1-DDCI

1-ER

2-DDA

2-OIS

~~1-CRD~~

1-DDO/IMS

1-RSB Subject: OSS Records

1-RSB Chrono

The Secret War Report of the OSS  
Edited with introduction by Anthony  
Cave Brown, publ by Beakley Publ  
Corp. June 1976

Job #62-271 War Diaries in.

War Report Office of Strategic  
Services, prepared by History Project SSU in 1947

and printed by US Govt Printing Office  
July 1949 as a TS doc. Reviewed

+ ~~a sanitized in 1975~~ ~~a sanitized~~

version made available by CIA

as of 9 Feb 76 Two volumes

Vol I - history/organization

Vol II - ~~overseas~~ ops

Donovan & the CIA  
(to Hist of the estab of the CIA)

Published in house by CIA  
in 1975 class SECRET